

Message Text

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SUBJECT: SOVIET PRESS SUMMARY - DECEMBER 30

1. U.S. COVERAGE, HIGHLIGHTED BY BREZHNEV GREETINGS TO
AMERICAN PEOPLE IN ANSWERS TO KINGSBURY-SMITH, IS MODERATE
IN VOLUMNE, CAUTIOUSLY UPBEAT IN TONE:

-- PRAVDA AND KZ GIVE FRONT PAGE PROMINENCE TO BREZHNEV ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS BY AMERICAN JOURNALIST KINGSBURY-SMITH. BREZHNEV, PICKING UP CARTER'S "TIME" INTERVIEW STATEMENT ON SUBJECT, PLUMPS FOR SALT, DENIES CHARGES OF SOVIET "MILITARY THREAT," AND AGREES THAT U.S.-SOVIET SUMMIT MEETING IN 1977 MIGHT BE A GOOD THING, DEPENDING ON HOW THINGS GO ON IMPORTANT QUESTIONS.

--KZ HAS TASS WASHINGTON ARTICLE ON VANCE-BROWN APPEARANCE ON ABC-TV AND ON THEIR COMMENTS ON IMPORTANCE OF DETENTE (VANCE), NEGOTIATIONS (BROWN), AND SALT (BOTH). VANCE'S RECENT COMMENTS ON NEED TO DEFINE DETENTE HAVE NOT YET BEEN PICKED UP IN SOVIET MEDIA.

--IZVESTIYA CARRIES TASS WASHINGTON ARTICLE BASED ON INTERVIEW WITH HEW EXECUTIVE SECRETARY R. FISHER, WHO LAUDS U.S.-SOVIET COOPERATION IN FIELD OF HEALTH.

-- CENTRAL PRESS REPORTS U.S. UNDERGROUND NUCLEAR EXPLOSION IN NEVADA.

-- IZVESTIYA "INTERNATIONAL COMMENTARY" BY YU. SHTIKANOV GIVES STANDARD SOVIET ASSESSMENT OF ACTIVITIES OF NORTH AND SOUTH KOREAN LEADERSHIP, THEN DESCRIBES GROWING U.S. MEDIA CRITICISM OF PARK'S "SATRAPICAL METHODS." CARTER'S ELECTION CAMPAIGN STATEMENTS ON SOUTH KOREAN SITUATION ARE CONTRASTED TO HIS RECENT PRESS CONFERENCE STATEMENT ON "VERY SLOW, VERY CAREFUL" PROCESS OF WITHDRAWING U.S. TROOPS FROM SOUTH KOREA.

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-- PRAVDA SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT YE. RUSAKOV WRITES FROM N.Y. ON REPORT OF SPECIAL COMMISSION OF HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES INVESTIGATING KENNEDY AND MARTIN LUTHER KING ASSASSINATIONS. NEW INFORMATION, SAYS RUSAKOV. CONFIRMS SUSPICION THAT MLK WAS VICTIM OF A CONSPIRACY. KZ HAS SHORT NOTE APPARENTLY BASED ON SAME ARTICLE.

-- L. STRZHIZHOVSKIY HAS A SHORT SATIRE ON SANTA CLAUS IN THE WEST, WHICH CONTRASTS 15 MILLION UNEMPLOYED IN U.S. AND EC WITH 20,000 MILLIONAIRES WHO ARE PRESENTED WITH SUCH TEMPTING GIFT POSSIBILITIES AS A MATCHED PAIR OF BUFFALO FROM NIEMAN-MARCUS FOR \$30,000.

2. OTHER COVERAGE:

-- PRAVDA GIVES PROMINENT PLACEMENT TO ANNOUNCEMENT OF OTHERWISE INSIGNIFICANT NATO MANEUVER OF 1200 NORWEGIAN AND BRITISH TROOPS NEAR CITY OF VOSS, NORWAY.

-- IZVESTIYA CORRESPONDENT, YU. GOLOSHYBO,
SENDS NEW YEAR GREETINGS TO FINLAND VIA FAVORABLE ARTICLE
ON FINNISH-SOVIET TIES THAT BIND. TRADE, ATOMIC POWER
COOPERATION, AND OTHER ELEMENTS COMBINE TO PRESAGE
CONTINUED DEVELOPMENT OF GOOD SOVIET-FINNISH RELATIONS.

-- PRAVDA AND KZ LEBANESE COVERAGE DESCRIBES
PHALANGIST RESISTANCE TO TURNING OVER HEAVY WEAPONS TO
ARAB SECURITY FORCE AND ISRAELI MILITARY INCURSIONS AGAINST
LEBANON. PRAVDA FOLLOWS THIS ARTICLE WITH "OPINION" BY
VLADIMIR PERESADA THAT ISRAEL, TRYING TO "COMPLICATE"
OVERALL SOLUTION IN M.E., HINDERS NORMALIZATION OF
SITUATION IN LEBANON.

-- PRAVDA "COMMENTATOR'S COLUMN" BY FEDOR
TARASOV DESCRIBES MILITARY SITUATION IN SOUTHERN AFRICA,
DERIDES ALLEGED WESTERN PROPAGANDA LINE THAT ANGOLA AND
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MOZAMBIQUE MIGHT ATTACK SOUTH AFRICA OR THAT "SOCIALIST
COUNTRIES" ARE PREPARING TO USE TERRITORY OF MOZAMBIQUE
AND ANGOLA AS A BASE OF OPERATIONS AGAINST SALISBURY AND
PRETORIS.

-- CENTRAL PRESS CARRIES TASS ADDIS ABABA REPORT
ON ETHIOPIAN FONOFFICE STATEMENT THAT SUDANESE TERRITORY
IS BEING USED AS A BASE FOR OPERATIONS OF COUNTER-
REVOLUTIONARY GROUPS HOSTILE TO ETHIOPIA.

-- IZEVSTIYA NOTES THAT PRESIDUM OF SUPREME
SOVIET RATIFIED ON DEC 22 SOVIET-GUINEAN CONSULAR
CONVENTION SIGNED ON APRIL 23.

-- PRAVDA AND KZ CARRY TASS PEKING ARTICLE
REPORTING ON JUST CONCLUDED 18-DAY POLITICAL-ECONOMIC
MEETING, OSTENSIBLY, ON THEME OF AGRICULTURE. CHINESE
PRESS, SAYS ARTICLE, CHARACTERIZED MEETING AS DEDICATED
ABOVE ALL TO POLITICAL, AND ONLY THEREAFTER TO ECONOMIC
PROBLEMS. BULK OF TASS ACCOUNT IS DEVOTED TO CC CHAIRMAN
HUA'S DESCRIPTION OF NEFARIOUS ACTIVITIES OF GROUP
OF FOUR WHICH "COULD HAVE" LED TO CIVIL WAR. THE FOUR
WERE REPORTEDLY ACCUSED OF CAPITULATING TO IMPERIALISM

"IN ORDER TO SUPPORT IMPERIAL-PUPPETS ON THEIR THRONE
WITH HELP OF BAYONETS OF AGGRESSORS." HUA ALSO REPORTEDLY
ACCUSED THE FOUR OF ATTEMPTING TO "REMOVE AND RUIN" CHOU
EN-LAI AND OF ATTEMPTING TO DISORGANIZE RANKS OF PLA
BY TREATING IT IN A HOSTILE MANNER. HUA ANNOUNCED THAT
FIVE YEAR "FIRST STAGE" PROGRAM OF ECONOMIC MODERNIZATION

WOULD HAVE TO BE EXTENDED TO A TEN YEAR PERIOD. TASS
ARTICLE CONCLUDES BY CITING HUA'S SPEECH AND PROPAGANDA
MATERIAL ACCOMPANYING IT ON "SOCIAL-IMPERIALISM" "WHICH
HAS LONG BEEN USED IN CHINA FOR BLACKENING SOVIET UNION
AND ITS FOREIGN POLICY."

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